LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Light Bulb Technology

DATE OF MEETING: August 21, 1996

PLACE OF MEETING: Headquarters of National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), Rosslyn, VA

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Anna Luo, ESEE AL

CPSC ATTENDEES:

William H.King, Jr., Director, ESEE
Anna L. Luo, ESEE

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES:

Lake A. Coulson, Manager - Government Affairs, NEMA
Dale R. Schmidt, Counsel, NEMA
Edward M. Yandek, Manager - Industry Standards, General Electric Company
Peter A. Bleasby, Director - Industry Relations & Standards, Osram Sylvania Inc.
Alfred C. Roussseau, Director - Technical Relations, Philips Lighting Company
Sandra Ruiter, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
Maureen Cislo, Editor, Product Safety Letter

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Mr Coulson (NEMA) opened the meeting with the introduction of the agenda (attached). The meeting discussion centered around the July 29, 1996 CPSC press release on "Tubular Halogen Bulbs" and the NEMA press release on "Elimination of 40 Watt (F40) Four-foot Fluorescent Lamps May Cause Outages and Ballast Failures".

CPSC staff presented an overview of halogen light bulb work conducted in FY96, including reviewing incident data, analysis of incidents, and developing recommendations to UL for upgrading UL 153. The representatives of bulb manufacturers noted the development of compact fluorescent bulbs and possible application in torchiere style floor lamps.

NEMA staff and industry representatives indicated that use of the 34 watt energy saving fluorescent lamp, may result in outages and ballast failures in some circumstances

with exising fixtures. Under the Energy Policy Act, production of the most popular low cost 40 watt (F40) fluorescent lamps, particularly the Cool White and Warm White types, were discontinued after October, 1995. Forty watt lamps with high Color Render Index, such as Cool White Deluxe and rare earth phosphor lamps, are still available and are fully suitable for use with all 40 watt ballasts. (See NEMA press release attached)

NEMA
Setting Standards for Excellence

AGENDA

LAMP SECTION MEETING WITH CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

PLACE OF MEETING: NEMA HEADQUARTERS
1300 North 17th Street, Suite 1847
Rosslyn, VA 22209

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, August 21, 1996
9:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.

I. CPSC Press Release on Tubular Halogen Bulbs

CPSC and NEMA members are expected to report on this issue as appropriate.

II. NEMA Press Release on "Elimination of 40 Watt 4 Foot Fluorescent Lamps May Cause Outages and Ballast Failures"

NEMA members are expected to report as appropriate.

III. Other Business

CPSC Staff and NEMA members should feel free to raise any additional issues at this time.

IV. Adjournment

National Electrical
Manufacturers Association

1300 North 17th Street, Suite 1847
Rosslyn, VA 22209
(703) 841-3200
FAX (703) 841-3300

Post-it® Fax Note 7671	Date 8/16/96	# of pages ▸ 5
To Bill King	From Luke Coulson	
Co./Dept.	Co. NEMA	
Phone #	Phone # 703 841 3245	
Fax #		

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Jacqui Showers
Manager, Marketing and Public Relations
703/841-3284
jac_showers@nema.org

ELIMINATION OF 40 WATT (F40) 4 FOOT FLUORESCENT LAMPS MAY CAUSE OUTAGES AND BALLAST FAILURES

ROSSLYN, VA.—The Energy Policy Act (EPACT) of 1992 eliminated the most popular low cost 40 watt (F40) fluorescent lamps previously on the market, particularly the Cool White (CW) and Warm White (WW) types. Under EPACT, production of these lamps was discontinued October 31, 1995. According to NEMA, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, use of the 34 watt energy saving lamp, one of the commercial substitutes for 40 watt lamps, may result in outages and ballast failures in some circumstances.

In many applications, the replacement for 40 watt lamps may be the energy saving 34 watt fluorescent lamp. Unfortunately, there are a large number of residential or shoplight fixtures frequently used in small offices, workshops, kitchens, basements and garages, which contain ballasts that are not designed for use with 34 watt lamps. Replacing the original 40 watt lamps in these fixtures with a 34 watt lamp will result in a lamp current about 35 per cent higher and input wattage about 15 per cent higher than that of the 40 watt lamp. The increased current and wattage can cause ballasts to operate at a temperature significantly over the maximum temperature for which they were designed. The increased temperature can lead to lamps cycling on and off and premature ballast failure. Other performance problems, such as poor starting or lamp flickering, may occur with the use of ballasts not designed for the 34 watt lamps.

(more)

NEMA EPACT 40
Add one

Several utilities and other parties have recently released statements emphasizing a fear of fire if 34 watt lamps are used incorrectly. While the incompatibility problems listed above are certainly present, NEMA believes that the spectacular nature of some of these warnings is excessive for ballasts containing thermal protection.

To avoid incompatibility problems, consumers should not use 34 watt lamps unless the ballast label specifically allows the use of 34/35 watt energy saver lamps. In many fixtures, it is impractical, or impossible, for a typical consumer to determine the ballast rating. If the ballast marking is inaccessible, **the 34 watt lamps should not be used.**

There are several 4 foot lamps currently available at retail outlets which are physically interchangeable and can be used, properly or improperly, by the consumer. Forty watt lamps with high Color Rendering Index, such as Cool White Deluxe (CWX) and rare earth phosphor lamps, are still available and are fully suitable for use with all 40 watt ballasts. In addition, 25 watt 4 foot T12 lamps, specifically designed for use in residential and shoplite fixtures, are now available from several manufacturers. **Thirty-four watt lamps are not suitable as replacement lamps in most residential fixtures.**

Some ballast manufacturers have recently introduced residential ballasts that are suitable with 34 watt lamps. These ballasts are clearly marked and are being used in many new fixtures currently being produced.

This release is an elaboration of a NEMA statement previously issued in April 1995 and January 1996. For more information, contact Kyle Pitsor, NEMA, 1300 N. 17th Street, Suite 1847, Rosslyn, VA 22209, or call (703) 841-3274

NEMA, with headquarters in Washington, D.C. is the leading U.S. organization representing and serving America's electroindustry companies.

###

Dist: NP

7/12/96:18